

REMARKS

The application contains claims 1-4, 7-17, 20-34 and 37-47. No claims have been amended, added or canceled in the present amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to for failure to mark the claim as "currently amended" in the previous amendment. Applicant has now marked the claims as "previously presented," in order to indicate that the claim has been amended.

Claims 1-4, 14-17 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sherman (U.S. Patent 7,046,690) in view of Bajic (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0227893) and further in view of Won et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0203740). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method in which a plurality of access points in a WLAN communicate over the air with a mobile station using a common BSSID. Each access point, however, is assigned its own MAC address, in addition to the BSSID, and is configured to emulate mobile station communications. Therefore, contrary to conventional functionality, in which an access point acknowledges all uplink messages that are sent to its BSSID, each access point in the method of claim 1 ignores uplink data messages that are not addressed to its MAC address.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner acknowledged that Sherman and Bajic fail to teach assigning MAC addresses to the access points and configuring the access points to emulate mobile station communications, but maintained that Won supplies the missing teaching. Won describes a method for permitting mobile devices to roam between subnets of a mobile wireless network (abstract). Each subnet holds a table with mobile device information, including the mobile device's IP address, MAC address and current location (which is determined by the access point and subnet with which the

mobile device is in communication). As the mobile device moves from one subnet to another, the subnets update their tables accordingly (paragraph 0025). The object of this method is to permit the mobile device to roam among subnets without having to acquire a new or temporary IP address (paragraph 0010).

Won, in other words, is concerned only with how addresses (MAC and IP) of mobile devices are handled. In contrast to claim 1, he says nothing about assigning MAC addresses to access points, and he does not even hint that an access point might emulate a mobile station. Paragraph 0014, cited by the Examiner, refers to “assigning each *mobile device* an IP address, MAC address and current *location corresponding to an access point* and subnet” (emphasis added), i.e., it is the mobile device that receives a MAC address, and the access point simply gives its location. Similarly, paragraph 0034 states that “the subnet assigns each *mobile device* an IP address, MAC address, and current location corresponding to an *access point* and subnet” (emphasis added).

Thus, the cited art neither teaches nor suggests assigning MAC addresses to the access points and configuring the access points to emulate mobile station communications, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 1, dependent claims 2-4 and 14 are also believed to be patentable.

Independent claim 15, like claim 1, recites that each access point is assigned its own MAC address and is configured to emulate mobile station communications. As explained above in reference to claim 1, these added features are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Therefore, claim 15 is believed to be patentable, as are claims 16 and 17, which depend from claim 15.

Independent claim 32 recites apparatus that operates on principles similar to the method of claim 1. Claim 32 is therefore believed to be patentable, as well, for the reasons explained above. In view of the patentability of claim 32, dependent claims 33 and 34 are also believed to be patentable.

Dependent claims 7-13, 20-31 and 37-47 were rejected over Sherman in view of Bajic and Won, and further in view of one or more of Honkasalo (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0210674), Chari et al. (U.S. Patent 7,016,328), and Melpignano et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0003912). In view of the patentability of amended independent claims 1, 15 and 32, dependent claims 7-13, 20-31 and 37-47 are also believed to be patentable.

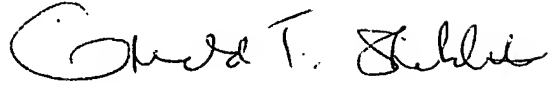
Furthermore, notwithstanding the patentability of the independent claims in this application, Applicant believes that the dependent claims recite independently-patentable subject matter. In the interest of brevity, however, Applicant will refrain from arguing the independent patentability of the dependent claims at present.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

US 10/ 664,631

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" and last name "Shekleton" clearly distinguishable.

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Gerald T Shekleton

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